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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY: Czechoslovakia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT: Minister Ripka's Planned Trip to Moscow

INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archives of the United States.
Conf. Dec. 1978

1. The Czechoslovak Cabinet agreed at a meeting in the first week of June, 1947, to send Dr. Hubert Ripka, Minister of Foreign Trade, to Moscow to make another attempt at stimulating trade between Czechoslovakia and Russia.
2. In the operation of the current Russo-Czechoslovak commercial treaty signed last year the Russians have been unable to make any substantial deliveries on the promises they made. The usual explanation is that the disastrous drought of last year completely upset their economic calculations. From a purely economic point of view, the Czechs recognize this impasse but Ripka's visit was to be a final attempt to introduce the political factor and seek a high level decision to force greater fulfillment of the Russian obligation. In other words, the Czech economy is sorely in need of raw materials and Ripka was to endeavor to point out to the Russians the political feasibility of maintaining trade relations with the Czechs as a matter of keeping the Slavonic front buttressed. In this way, the Czechs hoped to get high level directives down to economic commissars, who would have no choice but to make deliveries.

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